

Dacorum Borough Council's Planning Team

Below is a summary of the professional experience and specialisms of Officers from Dacorum Borough Council and their legal adviser who will be involved in the Core Strategy hearings. This information is intended to assist the Inspector and others giving evidence during the public hearing sessions. The Council may call upon other experts to provide evidence on its behalf. These could include representatives from Hertfordshire County Council and C4S – the consultancy responsible for carrying out the sustainability appraisal work.



Rob Jameson
Partner, Attwaters Jameson and Hill

Formerly Assistant County Secretary (Planning and Highways) with Hertfordshire County Council 1974 – 1982). Rob was Principal Instructing solicitor for a consortium of Local Authorities opposed to Stansted Airport expansion (1980 – 1982). Subsequently in private practice undertaking a wide variety of planning advice and advocacy for Local Authorities and private clients at Planning and Enforcement Appeal Inquiries, Local Plan Inquiries and DPD Examinations.

Advised Three Rivers District Council, Broxbourne Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council and now Dacorum Borough Council in relation to their Core Strategy Examinations (in Hertfordshire) and Huntingdonshire District Council, North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee, Chiltern District Council, Kettering Borough Council and East Northants District Council elsewhere.



Laura Wood
Team Leader – Strategic Planning and Regeneration
(Strategic Planning)
BSc, MSc, MRTPI

Laura has worked at Dacorum Council since 2001, following a short spell within the Local Plans team at Chiltern District Council. She has progressed from Planning Officer, through to Principal Planning Officer, taking on a Team Leader role when the Strategic Planning and Regeneration team was formed in 2011. Laura's team has responsibility for producing the Council's Local Planning Framework and providing advice to colleagues, councillors, members of the public and organisations on a wide range of planning policy issues. The team has also recently taken over the task of maintaining the Council's infrastructure delivery plan, leading development of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and monitoring the collection and spend of developer contributions.



Richard Blackburn
Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer - LDF Support
BA, Dip TP, MRTPI

Richard is an economics graduate from Kent University and gained chartered membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1976, while working for the London Borough of Harrow. He was employed by Harrow Council for 17 years in both Development Control and Local Plans. Richard has worked for Dacorum Borough Council since 1988, firstly as the Principal Planning Officer (from December 1988 to March 2001) and then as the Manager of the Development Plans Team (from March 2001 until October 2010). The latter period saw the completion of the Dacorum Borough Local Plan 1991-2011 and numerous supplementary policy documents, and the preparation of the Core Strategy (to Consultation Draft stage). Richard is currently employed by Dacorum Borough Council as a Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer to advise on a full range of planning matters (from March 2011).



Francis Whittaker
Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer
BSc, BTP, MRTPI

Francis began his planning career as a Planning Technician in Development Control at Luton Borough Council, a role he held for 3 years. Francis joined the planning policy team at Dacorum Borough Council in December 1989. In

1993 he spent a year in the Development Management team. He has been a Senior Planning Officer since 1995 and has represented the Council at Inquiry for both the current and previous adopted Local Plans. Francis' areas of specialism include development monitoring, housing land supply and retail policy.



John Chapman
Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer
BA (hons), MRTPI

John began his planning career at Hertfordshire County Council as a Graduate Trainee Planner in 1973. He soon moved to North Hertfordshire District Council where he worked for 5 years in the Local Plans team and also had a short spell in Development Control, rising from Planning Assistant to Senior Planning Assistant. In 1980 John joined St Albans City and District Council as Local Plans Team Leader, being promoted to the role of Planning Policy Manager in 2003. He specialised in housing, shopping and transport issues and was St Albans' main witness at the 1982 and 1992 Local Plan public inquiry. In March 2012 John joined Dacorum Borough Council as a Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer, where the focus of his work is on retail and employment policy.



Marguerite Cahill
Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer
BBS, PGDip, MSc

Marguerite began her planning career in 2006, working as an assistant planner at Fingal County Council (Dublin), where she spent 3 years in the Development Management and Forward Planning teams. In 2009 she moved to Cambridgeshire County Council and worked on the Minerals and Waste team helping to deliver the Core Strategy. Marguerite joined Dacorum Borough Council as a Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer in March 2012. Her role is to assist in the delivery of the Core Strategy and support the team's wider planning work.



Heather Overhead
Infrastructure Planning Officer - Strategic Planning
and Regeneration
BSc, MSc

Heather began her planning career in 2006, working as a planner at Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, specialising in retail and leisure studies for Local Authorities. She joined Dacorum Borough Council as a Strategic Planning and Regeneration Officer in 2008, moving to her current role of Infrastructure Planning Officer in February 2012. Heather's current areas of specialism are infrastructure (including developer contributions) and delivery.



Laura Badham
Technical Assistant - Strategic Planning and
Regeneration
BA

Laura studied at Lampeter University in Wales, where she gained a degree in Archaeology. Her professional background is however in office administration. Laura joined the Dacorum Borough Council in 2004 as a Technical Assistant. Her role involves supporting Officers in the management of consultation events, coordination of document production, the creation of maps and exhibition materials, updating the website and running of the online consultation system.